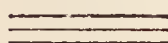


HOWDEN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL




Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

December 31st, 1947



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Howden Rural District

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Howden Rural District Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit my Annual Report for the year ending
December 31st, 1947.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

- 1—Area (in acres) 69,963.
- 2—Estimate of the average population of the area
during 1947—11,880.
- 3—Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1947
according to Rate Books—3,405.
- 4—Rateable Value—£37,239.
- 5—Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£148.

The chief industry throughout the District is Agriculture ;
other employment being provided by the Flax Mill,
Ouse Chemical Works, the Creosote Works, Brickyards,
Railways and Market Gardening.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

A part-time Medical Officer of Health, who acts as
Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital.

A full-time Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor,
with certificates A.R.San.I. and M.S.I.A., and an
Assistant Surveyor.

A Matron and one Fever trained Nurse at the Isolation
Hospital.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

		M.	F.	Total.
Live Births—Legitimate	...	108	90	198
Illegitimate	...	6	7	13
Total	...	114	97	211

Still Births.

Legitimate	...	...	1
Illegitimate	...	...	0
Total	...	...	1

Birth Rate in the Howden Rural District per 1,000 of the population—17.88.

Birth Rate in England and Wales per 1,000 of the population—20.5.

Still Birth Rate for Howden Rural Area—.08.

Percentage of Still Births to Total Births—.004.

DEATHS.

		M.	F.	Total.
Total Deaths in the Howden Rural Area in 1947	...	73	68	141
Death Rate in the Howden Rural Area per 1,000 population—11.9.				
Death Rate in England and Wales per 1,000 population—12.0.				

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis—0.

Deaths from other Puerperal Causes—0.

Death Rate in England and Wales per 1,000 Births—.85.

INFANT MORTALITY.

	M.	F.	Total.
Deaths of Children under 1 year of age in the Howden Rural District	4	4	8
Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Births in Howden Rural Area—37.8.			

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

Heart and Circulatory Diseases—56.

Cancer—24.

Apoplexy—14.

Accidents (including Road Traffic 2)—7.

Bronchitis—4.

Tuberculosis—6.

Pneumonia—1.

Influenza—0.

Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Diphtheria—0.

CONCLUSIONS.

There has been little change in the Birth Rate, Death Rate or Infant Mortality.

It is pleasing to record no Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

The Analysis of the Causes of Death shows an increase of the number of Deaths from Tuberculosis from 3 to 6, and no Deaths from the Chief Children's Infectious Diseases.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Pathological Examinations are carried out at the County Laboratory.

MATERNITY.

The County Maternity Nurses are available in all parts of the Area, although there is still a great shortage of Trained Maternity Nurses. A limited number of Maternity Beds have been available at the Howden Institution, and an Antenatal Clinic has been well attended there.

WATER.

The Supply of Water for the Area from Newbald and Goole was severely tested in the long drought of the Summer, and although the level at Newbald became very low, water was always available, and the purity remained unimpaired.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

The Ambulances available in the Rural Area are :—

- 1—An Ambulance at Beverley for Public Assistance Cases.
- 2—The Goole Bartholomew Hospital Ambulance for Accidents and admission to the Hospital.
- 3—An Ambulance stationed in Howden and staffed by the Howden Branch of the British Red Cross Society.
- 4—A Fever Ambulance at the Howden Isolation Hospital.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

An Infant Welfare Centre was re-opened in Howden in January, 1938, and has been very well attended. It is very satisfactory that the advantages of the Centre are being well appreciated.

HOSPITALS.

An Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

The Goole Bartholomew Hospital for Accidents and Surgical Cases.

A Small Pox Hospital at Shipton.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year there were 10 new cases of Tuberculosis notified, and there were 6 Deaths from this Disease. The Sanatorium for the East Riding is situated at Raywell, and Tuberculosis Clinics are held at Goole and Selby.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Clinic for the Area is at the Goole Bartholomew Hospital on Fridays :—Women 5 p.m. ; Men 8 p.m.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

During 1947 the following Immunisations of Children were completed :—

Children under 5—152.

Children over 5—35.

Boosting Doses—17.

This is quite satisfactory, as 211 Babies were born in 1946, and 187 were Immunised in 1947; a percentage of 88.6.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year the following Notifications of Infectious Diseases were received :—

	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941
Scarlet Fever ...	27	20	23	32	20	21	48
Diphtheria ...	0	2	0	2	4	23	9
Whooping Cough ...	2	20	73	100	60	65	46
Erysipelas ...	2	5	2	3	6	9	4
Measles ...	102	39	207	20	227	171	106
Pneumonia ...	8	2	9	9	19	10	16
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis ...	8	0	0	0	0	0	0

All Schools are under the County Council with the exception of one small Private School in Howden. Reports are sent by the Head Teacher to the Medical Officer of Health of absentees from School suffering from Infective Sickness.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. WIGGLESWORTH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor

FOR THE YEAR 1947

To the Chairman and Members of the Howden
Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration a brief Report concerning the Sanitary Administration of your District for the year ending December 31st, 1947.

COUNCIL HOUSES.

Eight Swedish Houses were completed during the year under review, and fifty-eight Houses were in course of erection in the following parishes :—

Eastrington	...	8	Bubwith	...	...	10
Newport	...	...	10	Gilberdyke	...	10
Kilpin	...	...	8	Howden	...	12

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

Since the issue of licences has been permitted 19 houses have been built by private enterprise, and 5 were in course of erection at the end of the year.

OVERCROWDING.

This problem is of a fluctuating nature. The Rural Survey carried out during the year revealed 23 cases of overcrowding. Based on the legal interpretation of the Overcrowding Act of 1936, several of the cases referred to were of a minor nature. There can, of course, be moral overcrowding as opposed to the legal standard.

Overcrowding may exist due to the return of men and women from the Forces, which results in two families living in one house. In the letting of Council houses, prior consideration should be given to such cases, so as to ensure that these people have a home of their own, and also to abate overcrowding.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The general low level of the district makes the problem of drainage one of peculiar difficulty.

In Howden town the greater part of the town is drained into a water-course, the Old Derwent, which discharges into the Ouse. Part of the water-course, or sewer, is culverted and passes under the houses. In a dry period sewage stagnates on the sides and becomes very offensive. The open sections were cleaned out during the year, and during a dry period tides are sent up from the Ouse to improve prevailing conditions. Part of the town drains into a sluggish open drain known as Carter's Drain. In general, in other parts of the district house drains discharge into open water courses, ditches, brick ponds, and at Newport into the Canal.

During the year 1945 your Council instructed your Consulting Engineer to prepare preliminary plans for sewage disposal in all villages and hamlets, and an enquiry by the Ministry of Health into the proposed scheme for Howden was held on October 9th.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The scheme of refuse collection for the whole district has been in operation over 2½ years, and has, generally speaking, given considerable satisfaction to the public, who much appreciate this service.

Some progress has been made during the year with the conversion of privy ash pits to the pan system, and in view of the general shortage of labour and materials the number of conversions carried out since the inception of the scheme can be considered as a highly satisfactory achievement. Piping presents some difficulties and is a problem which requires careful watching.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER.

The milk produced in the area is collected and taken to the large towns, and also to a Milk Factory at Holme-on-Spalding Moor. There is too much time lag between production and delivery to the towns, and there is much that is unsatisfactory in collection and distribution, but the difficulty has doubtless been one of transport.

During the year improvements were carried out to 11 cowsheds, and a new cowshed erected. 320 visits were paid to cowsheds, and it was found necessary to require cleansing and lime-washing of premises on several occasions, but generally speaking, particularly in view of labour conditions, there has been an improvement in the cleansing of cowsheds, dairies and equipment.

The number of milking machines in use has increased, but unless strict attention is paid to cleansing of the machines the milk produced can be less satisfactory than that produced by hand-milking.

There is one licensed Pastuerising Plant in the district, at Messrs. Southwick's Dairies, Holme; this is of the High Temperature Short-Time type, fitted with an Automatic Temperature Control, and has a capacity of 500 gallons per hour.

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INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

During the year routine inspections were carried out at food shops, cafés and premises at which food is prepared, and small quantities of foodstuffs were condemned. No slaughtering of animals for sale for human consumption is carried out in the district, as centralised slaughtering takes place at Goole under the control of the Ministry of Food.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

Very good progress has been made in carrying out the Housing Survey. Details of the houses inspected and recorded are as follows :—

No. of Houses in District	No. of Houses Inspected	Category					Found over- crowded
		1	2	3	4	5	
2,727	1,018	72	220	412	12	202	23

The number of working class houses at 2,727 would appear to be rather high, but the recommendation of the Rural Advisory Committee was that houses up to a Rateable Value of £20 should be included in the survey.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.

The issue of Building Licences for work carried out at a cost exceeding £10 involved a considerable amount of work. During the year 498 licences were issued with Certificates to purchase certain materials where necessary.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

At the request of the County Council, your Council accepted delegation under the Act of 1919, and although you have no special staff for the work, any major infestation brought to notice has been dealt with. The Agricultural Committee deal with farm premises, and the Local Authority is supposed to deal with the other infestations; as there are farms in all villages, one wonders where the line of demarcation can be drawn. Rodent Control under one Authority would achieve better results.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year a number of connections have been made to the Council's mains for household and agricultural purposes, resulting in an increase of consumption, particularly in view of the dry summer. Your Council obtain water from the Pocklington District and from Goole, but the bulk of water used is obtained from your own Newbald Waterworks. Samples of water submitted for Bacteriological examination proves the water to be of a high quality. The district is well served, as a supply is available in all villages and hamlets, with the exception of the hamlet of Brind, and it is pleasing to record that your Council decided that a scheme for a supply of water to Brind should be proceeded with.

The consumption of water for the year was over 123 million gallons; of this amount about 4 million gallons was supplied to Beverley Rural District.

Details are as follows :—

From Goole	...	...	18,864,000 gallons.
From Pocklington	..	...	19,960,000 gallons.
From Newbald	...	...	84,641,000 gallons.

FACTORIES.

The chief factories in the district are Anderton's Chemical Works at Howdendyke and a Milk Factory at Holme ; there are also Brickyards and a number of premises which come within the scope of the Factories' Act of 1938. Several visits were paid to these premises ; no action was found to be necessary.

In addition, there is a Government controlled Flax Factory at Howden.

HOUSING (General Observations).

During the year minor repairs were carried out to a number of cottages without hardly touching the fringe of the problem. The deterioration of rural cottages over a period of years, due to the shortage of labour and materials, has reached a stage which will ultimately result in the condemnation of property which might have given several more years of useful life had it been possible for owners to carry out repairs necessary to prevent serious deterioration.

Another factor which must influence owners of cottage property is the very high cost of repairs, while their rents remain unchanged, sometimes as low as 3s. per week, and this is a matter on which they have little or no redress. There can be little doubt that the Rent Restrictions Acts have served a very useful and proper purpose, but unless something can be done to mitigate the hardships caused to owners of rural cottages by high cost of repairs without any increase in rent, further deterioration will inevitably take place.

The need for additional houses cannot be questioned, and is a matter for concern by all Local Authorities, but there is just as great a need to bring existing houses up to a reasonable standard. Only by so doing can it be considered reasonable to expect that people will be encouraged to work and live in the Rural Areas. It is to be hoped that the Housing (Rural Workers) Act will be re-introduced in due course. Adequate housing surely envisages the bringing of existing houses up to a standard comparable with that of new houses.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

KENNETH MONTGOMERY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.